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AUDITOR-CONTROLLER

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES
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April 6, 2007

TO: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

FROM: J. Tyler McCauley 
Auditor-Controller

SUBJECT: **GROUP HOME PROGRAM MONITORING REPORT – J.E.E.B.
CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION GROUP HOME**

We have completed a review of J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home (Group Home or Agency) operated by J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation, Incorporated. The Group Home contracts with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and the Probation Department (Probation).

J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home is a six-bed facility, which provides care for boys ages 7-14 years who exhibit behavioral, social, and emotional difficulties. At the time of the monitoring visit, J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home was providing services for five DCFS children.

J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home is located in the Second District.

Scope of Review

The purpose of the review is to determine whether the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. Additionally, the review covers basic child safety and licensing issues and includes an evaluation of the Agency's Program Statement, internal policies and procedures, child case records, a facility inspection, and interviews with children placed in the Group Home at the time of the review. Interviews with children are designed to obtain their perspectives on the program services provided by the Agency and to ensure adherence to the Foster Youth Bill of Rights.

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

Summary of Findings

Generally, the Agency is providing the services as outlined in their Program Statement. The Agency needs to address several deficient areas.

J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home needs to paint the front door and paint the entry doors in bedrooms two and three, clean the bathroom ceiling and bathtub grout and replace the comforter and pillow in bedroom one.

Additionally, the Group Home needs to include the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans, maintain current Needs and Services Plans that are comprehensive and include short and long term goals, and maintain documentation to show that children are receiving adequate treatment services.

The Group Home also needs to provide all children with fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior. The Group Home should also provide children with appropriate clothing and items of necessity, the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance, opportunities to select their own clothes, clothing that is of good quality and of sufficient quantity and the required minimum weekly allowance.

Attached is a detailed report of the review.

Review of Report

We discussed our report with the Agency's management. However, since the time of the review, the Agency has decided to close the Group Home. Therefore, a corrective action plan was not completed. We thank the management and staff for their cooperation during our review.

If you have any questions, please contact me or have your staff contact Mike Pirolo at (626) 293-1110.

JTM:MMO:MP:CC:jh

Attachments

c: David E. Janssen, Chief Administrative Officer
Patricia S. Ploehn, Director, DCFS
Robert B. Taylor, Chief Probation Officer
Bennie Wharton, Exec. Director, J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home
Public Information Office
Audit Committee

**J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home
3703 South Genesee Avenue
Los Angeles, California 90016
Phone: (323) 292-8994
License Number: 191800663
Rate Classification Level: 7**

I. Facility and Environment

Method of assessment – Observation

Comments:

J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home is located in a residential community. The front and back yards are clean, and adequately landscaped. However, the paint on the front entry door is peeling.

Generally, the interior of the Group Home is well maintained. The common quarters are neat. There is adequate furniture and lighting in the Group Home. The Group Home provides a home-like environment. However, in the bathroom, there is mold and mildew on the ceiling and on the grout around the bathtub.

Overall, the children's bedrooms are well maintained. The rooms are clean and orderly and have age-appropriate personalized decorations. There is adequate furniture, lighting, and storage space. Window coverings and window screens are in good repair. The mattresses are comfortable, and the beds all have a full complement of linens. Children's sleeping arrangements are appropriate. However, the comforter is worn and the pillow is stained in bedroom one. The paint is peeling on the entry doors in bedrooms two and three.

The Group Home maintains age appropriate and accessible recreational equipment. There are also board games, a TV, and a DVD player. Books and resource materials, including a computer with a variety of programs, are also available.

The Group Home maintains a sufficient supply of perishable and non perishable foods.

Recommendations

- 1. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home management:**
 - a. Paint the exterior front entry door.**
 - b. Clean the bathroom ceiling and the grout around the bathtub.**
 - c. Paint the entry doors in bedrooms two and three.**

- d. Replace the comforter and pillow in bedroom one.

II. Program Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample: Two

Comments:

Children meet the Group Home's population criteria as outlined in their Program Statement. Children are assessed for needed services within thirty days of placement.

The treatment team does not develop or implement the Needs and Services Plans (NSPs). The NSPs are not current or comprehensive and do not include short and long term goals.

Case files do not reflect adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

Recommendations

2. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home management:

- a. Include the treatment team in the development and implementation of the Needs and Services Plans.
- b. Maintain current and comprehensive Needs and Services Plans that are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic, and include short and long term goals.
- c. Maintain adequate documentation to show that children are receiving treatment services.

III. Educational and Emancipation Services

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are attending school. Children are provided with educational support and resources to meet their educational needs and are progressing satisfactorily in school. The Group Home's program includes the development of children's daily living, self-help, and survival skills.

Children are provided with opportunities to participate in emancipation and vocational programs as appropriate.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

IV. Recreation and Activities

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home provides children with sufficient recreational activities and leisure time. Children are provided with opportunities to participate in planning activities.

Children participate in extra-curricular, enrichment, and social activities in which they have an interest.

The Group Home provides transportation to and from the activities.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

V. Psychotropic Medication

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents

Comments:

Children have current court authorizations for psychotropic medication. Documentation confirms that children are routinely seen by the prescribing psychiatrist.

Children are informed about their psychotropic medication and are aware of their right to refuse medication.

Medication distribution logs are properly maintained.

Recommendations

There are no recommendations for this section.

VI. Personal Rights

Method of assessment – Interviews with children

Sample size: Two

Comments:

Children are informed about the Group Home's policies and procedures. Children report that they feel safe in the Group Home and are provided with appropriate staff supervision. Children express satisfaction with the quality of their interactions with staff and report that staff treats them with respect and dignity.

Children report that they are assigned chores that are reasonable and not too demanding. Children are able to make and receive personal telephone calls, send and receive unopened mail, and have private visitors. Children are able to attend religious services of their choice.

Children report that the discipline policies are consistently enforced; however, one child feels that consequences for inappropriate behavior are not fair and appropriate. This child reports that he receives harsher consequences for inappropriate behavior. He was unable to celebrate his birthday as a result of misbehavior, and did not receive a gift, cake, or any kind of recognition on his birthday.

Children report satisfaction with meals and snacks.

Children receive voluntary medical, dental, and psychiatric care.

Recommendations

J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home management provide fair and appropriate consequences for inappropriate behavior for all children.

VII. Clothing and Allowance

Method of assessment – Review of relevant documents and interviews

Sample size: Two

Comments:

The Group Home does not provide children with appropriate clothing, items of necessity, and the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance to children. Children are not provided with opportunities to select their own clothes. Clothing provided to children is not of good quality or of sufficient quantity.

Children spend their allowances as they choose. However, the Group Home does not provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.

The Group Home provides children with adequate personal care items. Children are also encouraged and assisted in creating and maintaining photo albums/life books.

Recommendations

- 4. J.E.E.B. Children's Foundation Group Home management:**
 - a. Provide children with appropriate clothing and items of necessity.**
 - b. Provide children with the required \$50 monthly clothing allowance.**
 - c. Provide children with opportunities to select their own clothes.**
 - d. Provide children with clothing that is of good quality and of sufficient quantity.**
 - e. Provide children with the required minimum weekly allowance.**